8011-01p SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION [Release No. 34-72478; File No. SR-CME-2014-25]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Chicago Mercantile Exchange Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change Regarding Collateral Acceptance Practices for Products in the Base Guaranty Fund

June 26, 2014.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act" or "Act"), 1 and Rule 19b-4 thereunder, 2 notice is hereby given that on June 23, 2014, Chicago Mercantile Exchange Inc. ("CME") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change described in Items I and II below, which Items have been prepared primarily by CME. CME filed the proposal pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act³ and Rule 19b-4(f)(4)(ii)⁴ thereunder, so that the proposal was effective upon filing with the Commission. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed</u> Rule Change

CME is proposing to announce via advisory notice a certain change to its collateral acceptance practices. More specifically, CME is proposing to issue an advisory to clearing member firms announcing a change to the acceptable collateral types for base guaranty fund

¹⁵ U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(4)(ii).

products. The text of the proposed rule change is below. Italicized text indicates additions;

bracketed text indicates deletions.

CME Group Advisory Notice #14-194

TO: Clearing Member Firms FROM: CME Clearing

SUBJECT: Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) and Stock Programs

CME Clearing is expanding its existing collateral program to include additional Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) that may be used as performance bond collateral for Base Guaranty Fund products effective June 23rd, 2014. Currently, CME Clearing accepts a select number of ETFs through its Stock Program. The existing haircut of 30% will be applied to ETFs. Please see CME's Financial and Collateral Management page for the updated acceptance criteria for ETFs and stocks. On the 5th business day of every month, a new list of acceptable ETFs and stocks will be posted to CME's Financial and Collateral Management page.

Both ETFs and stocks are part of category 3 assets. Therefore, ETFs and stocks in combination with other category 3 assets will be capped at the lesser of 40% of core requirement per currency or \$5 billion per clearing member firm. Please see the list of category 3 assets below. ETFs and stocks combined are capped at \$1 billion per clearing member firm.

In accordance with CME Rule 930.C, a clearing member cannot accept an accountholder security that has been "issued, sponsored or otherwise guaranteed by the accountholder." In addition, any ETF that is sponsored by the clearing member or its parent or affiliate company may not be pledged for the clearing member's house performance bond requirement. For any questions related to the ETF and Stock Programs, please contact the Risk Management department at 312-648-3888 or the Financial Management group at 312-207-2594.

Category 3 Assets

- IEF 2 (Money Market Funds)
- IEF 4 (Corporate Bonds)
- Gold
- ETFs and Stocks
- Foreign Sovereign Debt

The list of proposed ETFs that may be used as performance bond collateral for Base Guaranty Fund products effective June 23rd, 2014 is as follows:

TICKER	NAME
SPY US	SPDR S&P 500 ETF TRUST
IWM US	ISHARES RUSSELL 2000 ETF
QQQ US	POWERSHARES QQQ TRUST SERIES

XLU US	UTILITIES SELECT SECTOR SPDR
IYR US	ISHARES US REAL ESTATE ETF
XLI US	INDUSTRIAL SELECT SECT SPDR
XLE US	ENERGY SELECT SECTOR SPDR
XLV US	HEALTH CARE SELECT SECTOR
XLK US	TECHNOLOGY SELECT SECT SPDR
XLP US	CONSUMER STAPLES SPDR
XLY US	CONSUMER DISCRETIONARY SELT
DIA US	SPDR DJIA TRUST
XLB US	MATERIALS SELECT SECTOR SPDR
XOP US	SPDR S&P OIL & GAS EXP & PR
IVV US	ISHARES CORE S&P 500 ETF
VNQ US	VANGUARD REIT ETF
VTI US	VANGUARD US TOTAL STOCK MKT
IBB US	ISHARES NASDAQ BIOTECHNOLOGY
LQD US	ISHARES IBOXX INVESTMENT GRA
BND US	VANGUARD TOTAL BOND MARKET
AGG US	ISHARES CORE U.S. AGGREGATE
VOO US	VANGUARD S&P 500 ETF
REM US	ISHARES MORTGAGE REAL ESTATE
BSV US	VANGUARD SHORT-TERM BOND ETF

II. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change</u>

In its filing with the Commission, CME included statements concerning the purpose and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. CME has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

A. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis</u> for, the Proposed Rule Change

CME is registered as a derivatives clearing organization with the Commodity Futures

Trading Commission ("CFTC") and operates a substantial business clearing futures and swaps

contracts subject to the jurisdiction of the CFTC. CME is proposing to make a certain change to

its collateral acceptance practices through the issuance of an advisory notice to its clearing

members. More specifically, CME is expanding its existing collateral program to include additional Exchange Traded Funds ("ETFs") that may be used as performance bond collateral for CME's Base Guaranty Fund products. The proposed change would not impact CME's collateral acceptance practices relating to products in its CDS Guaranty Fund. CME also notes that although the proposed change would expand the eligible performance bond collateral for products in the Base Guaranty Fund, the proposed change would have no impact on the level of margin collected but rather would simply impact the makeup of the collateral used by a clearing member to meet its margin requirements.

Currently, CME accepts a select number of ETFs as collateral in connection with the products associated with certain non-CDS guaranty funds. ETFs accepted by CME as collateral are chosen through historical analysis of the ETF market and stock market. ETFs accepted as collateral conform to CME's credit risk criteria and are monitored by CME daily for price changes and are subject to periodic eligibility review. The existing haircut of 30% for currently accepted ETFs would be applied to the newly-added ETFs under the proposed change. Both ETFs and stocks are part of CME's "Category 3" assets. Therefore, ETFs and stocks in combination with other category 3 assets would be capped at the lesser of 40% of core requirement per currency or \$5 billion per clearing member firm. ETFs and stocks combined are capped at \$1 billion per clearing member firm. An updated table showing CME Base Guaranty Fund performance bond limits is included below.

Updated Performance Bond Acceptable Collateral Categories and Limits

Category 2* Category 2*

Category 2*	Category 3**
U.S. Government Agencies	IEF2† (Money Market
Strips	Mutual Funds)
TIPS (capped at \$1bn per	Gold (capped at \$500mm per
firm)	firm)
Select MBS	ETFs and Stocks (capped at
*Capped at 40% of core	\$1bn per firm)
requirement per currency	IEF4 (corporate bonds)
requirement per firm	Foreign Sovereign Debt
	(capped at \$1bn per firm)
	** Capped at 40% of core
	requirement per currency
	requirement per firm or \$5
	billion per firm, the lesser of
	the two
	$\dagger Not$ included in the 40%
	requirement
	U.S. Government Agencies Strips TIPS (capped at \$1bn per firm) Select MBS *Capped at 40% of core requirement per currency

The advisory also clarifies that, in accordance with CME Rule 930.C, a CME clearing member cannot accept an accountholder security that has been "issued, sponsored or otherwise guaranteed by the accountholder." In addition, the advisory would clarify that any ETF that is sponsored by the clearing member or its parent or affiliate company may not be pledged for the clearing member's house performance bond requirement.

The proposed change in this filing is limited to products associated with CME's Base Guaranty Fund and therefore does not impact products associated with CME's CDS guaranty fund. CME accepts a narrower range of collateral for CDS clearing and does not currently accept letters of credit, stocks or corporate bonds as acceptable collateral for CDS; the proposed rule change in this filing would not impact these current practices. The proposed rule change would become effective immediately.

CME believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of the Exchange Act including Section 17A of the Exchange Act.⁵ The proposed change would amend CME's collateral acceptance practices to permit the use of additional ETFs that may be used as performance bond collateral for CME's Base Guaranty Fund products. Although the proposed change would expand the eligible performance bond collateral for Base Guaranty Fund products, the proposed change would have no impact on the level of margin collected but rather would simply impact the makeup of the collateral used by a clearing member to meet its margin requirements. Expanded collateral choices for market participants will promote the prompt and accurate clearance and settlement of securities transactions and, to the extent applicable, derivatives agreements, contracts, and transactions, to assure the safeguarding of securities and funds which are in the custody or control of the clearing agency or for which it is responsible, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest consistent with Section 17A(b)(3)(F) of the Exchange Act.⁶

Furthermore, the proposed change is limited to products associated with CME's Base Guaranty Fund, which means the proposed change is limited in its effect to products that are under the exclusive jurisdiction of the CFTC. As such, the proposed change is limited to CME's activities as a DCO clearing swaps that are not security-based swaps. CME notes that the policies of the CFTC with respect to administering the Commodity Exchange Act are comparable to a number of the policies underlying the Exchange Act, such as promoting market transparency for over-the-counter derivatives markets, promoting the prompt and accurate clearance of transactions and protecting investors and the public interest.

¹⁵ U.S.C. 78q-1.

⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78q-1(b)(3)(F).

Because the proposed change is limited in its effect to products associated with CME's Base Guaranty Fund and therefore offered under CME's authority to act as a DCO, the proposed change is properly classified as effecting a change in an existing service of CME that:

- (a) primarily affects the clearing operations of CME with respect to products that are not securities, including futures that are not security futures, swaps that are not security-based swaps or mixed swaps; and forwards that are not security forwards; and
- (b) does not significantly affect any securities clearing operations of CME or any rights or obligations of CME with respect to securities clearing or persons using such securities-clearing service.

As such, the change is therefore consistent with the requirements of Section 17A of the Exchange Act⁷ and are properly filed under Section 19(b)(3)(A)⁸ and Rule 19b-4(f)(4)(ii)⁹ thereunder.

B. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition</u>

CME does not believe that the proposed rule change will have any impact, or impose any burden, on competition. The proposed change would simply expand the eligible performance bond collateral for CME's Base Guaranty Fund. These expanded collateral choices will benefit market participants by offering greater flexibility.

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78q-1.

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

⁹ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(4)(ii).

C. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others</u>

CME has not solicited, and does not intend to solicit, comments regarding this proposed rule change. CME has not received any unsolicited written comments from interested parties.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

The foregoing rule change has become effective upon filing pursuant to Section $19(b)(3)(A)^{10}$ of the Act and Rule $19b-4(f)(4)(ii)^{11}$ thereunder. At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic Comments:

- Use the Commission's Internet comment form (http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml), or
- Send an e-mail to <u>rule-comments@sec.gov</u>. Please include File No. SR-CME-2014-25 on the subject line.

Paper Comments:

Send paper comments in triplicate to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission,
 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC, 20549-1090.

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹¹ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(4)(ii).

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-CME-2014-25. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's Internet website (http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml). Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for website viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of CME and on CME's website at http://www/cmegroup.com/market-regulation/rule-filings.html.

All comments received will be posted without change; the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-CME-2014-25 and should be submitted on or before [INSERT DATE 21 DAYS FROM PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority. 12

Kevin M. O'Neill,

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¹² 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

Deputy Secretary.

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